by Haj Committee would be eligible for the subsidized fare; (iv) the subsidized fare would be kept at the existing level of Rs. 12,000 for Haj 2004 and the subsidy may be reduced in a phased manner in subsequent year. Government has also directed that an affidavit be obtained from the pilgrim to the effect that they have not availed the subsidized Haj fare earlier and that they are not income tax payer.

(b) In case of the Kaiiash Mansarover Yatra, the Government provides Rs. 3250/- per Yatri to the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) which arranges boarding and lodging for the Yatris, to partially offset the expenditure incurred by the yatris. Apart from this, cetain logistic facilities are also provided to groups of pilgrims visiting Pakistan in accordance with the provisons of a bilateral "Protocol on Visits to religious Shrines-1974" signed between two countries.

Upgradation of Airports in UP

†2164. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of airports under National Airports Authority of India in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of airports which are proposed to be upgraded as international airports out of them; and

(c) the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) There are three operational and two non-operational airports in Uttar Pradesh belonging to Airports Authority of India.

(b) and (c) Upgradation of airports is a continuous process based on the requirements. The airports at Lucknow and Varanasi have Customs and Immigration facilities for handling limited international flights. The runway at Lucknow airport has been extended to 9000 feet and runway of Varanasi airport is being extended to 9000 feet for operations of A-300 type of aircraft. A new integrated terminal building for 500 domestic and 300 international passengers with aero-bridges is planned at Varanasi.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.